

Kuskokwim River Salmon Management Working Group

1 (800) 315-6338 (MEET) Code: 58756# (KUSKO)

Meeting Summary

June 20, 2011

Called to order at ADF&G in Bethel and adjourned at 12:50 pm. Nine of the thirteen members were present and a quorum was established.

AGENDA ITEMS:

- 1.) Continuing Business
- 2.) Old Business
- 3.) New Business

WORKING GROUP ACTION ITEMS:

- 1.) ADF&G provide graphs of escapement goals at weirs at the next meeting.

MEETING ACTION ANNOUNCEMENT:

The next KRSMWG meeting will be at 10:00 am Monday, June 27, 2011, at ADF&G in Bethel.

ADF&G RECOMMENDATIONS:

Option 1: To take no further action. The only restrictions would be those already in place for the Kwethluk, Tuluksak, and Kisaralik Rivers and Kuskokuak Slough.

Option 2: To close District 1 subsistence fishing for 5 days from Thursday, June 23, until Monday June 27, to help meet escapement objectives. This closure would be during the 50% and 70% passage point of the Chinook salmon run. 4-inch mesh nets not exceeding 60 feet in length would be allowed during this closure.

WORKING GROUP MOTIONS:

- 1.) Motion to suspend the rules in order to hear public input. Motion passed.
- 2.) Motion to support ADF&G Option 1, to take no action. Motion failed.
- 3.) Motion to support ADF&G Option 2, but to amend the option to have a 5-day closure in District 1 beginning at 12:01 am Wednesday, June 22, until 11:59 pm Sunday, June 26. Motion failed.
- 4.) Motion to support ADF&G Option 2, a 5-Day subsistence fishing closure beginning at 12:01 am Thursday, June 23, and ending at 11:59 pm Monday, June 28. Motion failed.

The department decided to adopt Option 2.

PEOPLE TO BE HEARD:

1.) Daniel Nelson (public member) from Napakiak gave a fishing report. He had 93 Chinook, 13 chums, and 8 reds as of June 15. Most people share a fish rack with their family and he counted 27 fish racks. The river has been open because of the closure, but he has heard of sightings of beluga in the Tuntutuliak and Quinhagak area, and felt that when belugas are in the immediate area, there are no fish to catch.

2.) Jeff Sanders (public member) asked who funds the Kalskag fish wheel project, and Zach Liller (ADF&G) responded that it is a cooperation between KNA and ADF&G, partnered with the park service for the tagging component. Sanders then asked if this project can be used to estimate inseason harvests between BTF and Kalskag. Liller responded that we cannot yet, because the focus of the project and tagging effort changes annually.

3.) Tim Andrews (AVCP) asked if the downward trend on the BTF CPUE graph is a function of abundance. Chuck Brazil (ADF&G) responded that it could be a function of abundance but possibly changing river morphology and travel patterns. Chris Shelden (ADF&G) added that decreasing abundance is not always a concern because sometimes low abundance can bring about high returns. Conversely, high abundance years can yield lower returns. The dip in the BTF graph may be part of a natural cycle.

CONTINUING BUSINESS:

LOWER RIVER SUBSISTENCE REPORTS:

Bev Hoffman (Chair) gave Robert Enoch's (public member) report from Tuntutuliak. He caught 38 fish before the closure, but has heard a rumor that people have been seeing beluga. This might be the reason that people are not getting as many kings. He feels that the closure is not necessary downriver because the river is so wide and some families are just starting to fish.

James Charles (Downriver Elder) also had reports of beluga whales. At Eek Island, fishermen thought that the belugas were eating fish down in the water while they fished; so many people had to go farther upriver. James reported that someone from Tuntutuliak was unhappy because he thinks that the Chinook have better chance of getting by there because the river is wide. However, James thought that the closure last week may have helped the fish pass. In Eek and Tuntutuliak, some people are finished fishing (for Chinook) and others want to catch a few more. One complaint that people have had is that the channel marker buoys are in the way, and he asked ADF&G to ask the Coast Guard to move them so that they are not in commercial and subsistence fishing spots.

Mike Williams (Lower River Subsistence) in Akiak met with subsistence fishermen and many were reserving their time on the river because of the high price of gas. The fish have been smaller, the water clear, and the water level low, so fishermen are waiting for a more abundant time. People have been using Facebook and texting to monitor Tuntutuliak and the lower river. Mike agrees with James Charles and Robert Enoch that the closure put a crimp on fishing because the bigger Chinook were just beginning to show up. Since the closure, people have been using 4-inch mesh and are catching sockeye, chum, and quite a few small Chinook. Catch rates are almost triple on the deep parts of the bank. Mike said that it has been a hard time because people like to fish when the weather is good for drying, but many families are just starting because the fish seem late. About 75% will be fishing this week. One common concern was that because of the closure coming, people went out and wiped out the salmon by "combat fishing." But Mike Agrees with James, and Robert, and with Mr. Nelson that fish are coming and seems like this year they're going through deep parts of banks. His cousin fished a deep eddy and was catching 4 times as many as they were on the sandbar side.

Beverly Hoffman (Chair) reported that today was her first day of fishing. She caught 18 Chinook with 7-inch mesh. She also said that the stampede of people from Bethel trying to get

on the river was scary. She got a call from someone upriver who wondered if people even care about upriver escapement.

ONC IN-SEASON SUBSISTENCE REPORT:

Please see the ONC Current and Historic Catch Rate Table on page 14.

***Note:** Salmon Fishing was closed in the survey area for a Chinook conservation closure Thursday, June 16, through Sunday, June 19. Thus, this survey report reflects subsistence fishing effort for the time-period of Monday, June 13, through Wednesday, June 15.

Fishing reports from June 13 –June 18, 2011.

Families Surveyed	Families Fishing	Using Driftnets	Using Setnets	Both	Gillnets More than 6" mesh	Gillnets 6" mesh or less	Both
57	56	37	3	16	24	12	19

Compared with this time in a normal year, how are catch rates for salmon this week?

Chinook			Chum			Sockeye		
Very Good	Normal	Poor	Very Good	Normal	Poor	Very Good	Normal	Poor
14	21	20	8	29	11	8	32	10

Does the salmon run appear to be running early, late, or normal?

Chinook			Chum			Sockeye		
Early	Normal	Late	Early	Normal	Late	Early	Normal	Late
10	27	16	10	30	7	7	35	6

Comments: 57 families were surveyed this week for the inseason subsistence monitoring program. 56 (98%) of the families were fishing this week. 1 (2%) of the family did not fish this week. 37 (66%) families reported using driftnets. 3 (5%) families reported using set nets. 16 (29%) families reported using both types of net. 24 (43%) of the families fishing used gill nets greater than 6-inch mesh. Most using greater than 6-inch mesh referred to using specifically 8-inch mesh (called "king gear"), but some indicated that they were using 7-inch gear. 12 (21%) of the families reported 6-inch mesh or less. 19 (34%) families reported using both large and small sizes of mesh.

The families interviewed this week were at various stages of fishing. The families that had begun fishing a day or two before the closure indicated that mid-June is when they normally start fishing. Other families indicated that they had started early or had increased their effort before the closure. These families met their subsistence Chinook harvest goals for the year or were satisfied with what they had. However, most families interviewed were mid-way through their salmon harvest goals and planned to resume fishing after the closure.

All families indicated that the weather had been good for drying fish and the flies had not yet come out. Several families who had just started fishing were concerned that the weather would become rainier later in June. They worried that fish caught after this week's closure may not dry properly and spoil if flies arrived to lay eggs. Their primary concern was the lack of flexibility to harvest fish when the weather was best for preserving them.

Many families reported that they had switched to smaller mesh gear to target the more abundant smaller Chinook. They also reported catching fewer females than usual. Some noted that they were just beginning

to catch a few bigger Chinook in the last couple days and a greater percentage of females, which may indicate the arrival of what they referred to as the "second pulse." Many families were switching back and forth between mesh sizes or had different sized set nets and drift nets.

A few families specifically stated that they saw the Chinook conservation posters initiated by the Kuskokwim Salmon Management Working Group. They said that they would make an effort to target more abundant sockeye using smaller mesh size throughout the entire season. Many families commented they understood the Chinook conservation measures being sought by the closure. Some interviewees commented that the population of Bethel was growing and they had never seen such a high level of congested drift and set net fishing on the Kuskokwim River in their lifetime as that of last week.

Chinook:

Catch rate: Of the 56 families fishing this week, 14 (25%) reported the Chinook catch as very good, 21 (38%) families reported the catch as normal, 20 (37%) families reported it as poor. Many fishers used 8-inch gear but others switched to smaller mesh (6-inch or 5.5 inch), in order to catch the smaller Chinook that were getting through the net. Many reported using both Chinook gear and 6-inch or less to increase their catch rate. Most noted they had better catch rates of Chinook with the smaller size mesh. A few fishers reported larger Chinook arriving a day or two before the closure. Many had fewer females in their catch than they normally would at this point in the run, but others think that females usually come in the "second pulse" instead.

Run timing: Of the 56 families that reported fishing this week, 10 (18%) reported the run as early, 27 (48%) reported the run timing as normal, 16 (29%) reported the run to be late this year. 3 (5%) families did not comment on run timing because they had just begun fishing and could not yet assess the flow of fish for this time period.

Chum:

Catch Rate: 8 (14%) families reported their catch rates as good. 29 (52%) families reported their catches as normal. 11 (20%) families reported their catches as poor. 8 (14%) families didn't report due to no chum catches yet or felt that catches were only a reflection of by-catch in 8-inch mesh.

Run timing: 10 (18%) families reported the run return as early. 30 (54%) families report the salmon run timing as normal. 7 (13%) families reported the run to be late compared to previous years. 9 (16%) families were unable to report due to no chum catches yet. Some people felt it was too early to comment on the timing or catch rate for chum, as they were not targeting them specifically.

Sockeye:

Catch Rate: 8 (14%) families reported their catch rates as good, 32 (57%) reported it as normal, 10 (18%) reported it as poor. 6 (11%) families didn't report due to not targeting sockeye yet. Some people reported sockeye catch rates as the normal rate of by-catch in their king gear.

Run timing: 7 (12%) families reported the run return as early, 35 (63%) reported timing as normal. 6 (11%) families reported the run to be late compared to previous years. 8 (14%) families were unable to report on run timing due to not specifically targeting sockeye yet.

MIDDLE RIVER SUBSISTENCE REPORT:

Angie Morgan (Middle River Subsistence) in Aniak reported that for six days in a row her set nets caught zero fish (all species), until last night when she caught 1 Chinook. With a drift net, they caught zero fish. Their net upriver had only caught 3 chum and one small Chinook in one night. One fisherman reported catching 2 small chum and 1 Sheefish in a six hour period. People in Aniak are eager to start fishing and have been trying very hard to put away Chinook.

Lamont Albertson (Sport Fishing) said that fishing for Chinook in Aniak is “as dire as it’s ever been.” Even without the data, the absence is obvious. “There’s not 50 kings on racks in all of Aniak.”

Bob Aloysius (YK Delta RAC member) asked how many days it takes the fish to get from Eek to Bethel. Chuck Brazil (ADF&G Area Manager) responded that it is about 60 miles and takes 2 to 3 days. It takes two more days for them to get from Bethel to Aniak (so about a week from the mouth to Aniak). Bob reported an influx of sockeye and chum, so hopefully Chinook will arrive on Friday. People are very concerned and are all in favor of a closure. Especially in the bigger villages, we need to remember that the population of the Kuskokwim is growing so the harvest is higher. If the good drying weather does not hold, he reminded everyone not to overlook methods like salting and jarring.

Elsie Simeon (public member) reported that they are catching Sheefish in Aniak. She was worried that the first pulse passed because she and many others waited to fish.

KNA INSEASON SUBSISTENCE REPORT:

Please see KNA weekly subsistence survey results for June 11 017, 2011, on pages 6-8 of this document.

After the report, Stuart Currie (Processor, Kuskokwim Seafoods) asked for clarification on how the different salmon species are traditionally used. Members responded that the large kings are made into strips because their oil acts as a preservative. The sockeye dry out and are smaller.

UPPER RIVER SUBSISTENCE REPORT:

Ray Collins (Western Interior RAC member) reported that Blackwater Camp is getting fish, but did not have a report. He also mentioned that Headwaters subsistence member Daniel Esai is unable to attend meetings because of work, but that he would check with Nick Petruska about giving reports for future meetings.

HEADWATERS SUBSISTENCE REPORT: no report

KNA Weekly Subsistence Fishing Report June 11-17, 2011

Village	Name	Fishing Y/N	Gear Type	Mesh Size	Species Type:	How does the run compare to recent years? *NR= no response	Average # fish caught daily:
Kalskag	Family A	Yes	Drift Net	Dog Net	Sockeye	Below Average	0
	Comments: Interviewed: Thursday, 06-16-11 Started fishing just recently, said that they caught 5 small kings, a couple chum, and a couple Shee fish. Fishing is way below average. Commented that the Commercial fishing should slow down near the mouth of the Kuskokwim.						
					Chinook	Below Average	5 week total
					Coho	Below Average	0
					Chum	Below Average	2 week total
	Family B	Yes	Set Net	?	Sockeye	NR	0
	Comments: Interviewed: Thursday, 06-16-11 Hasn't caught any fish in the set net so far.						
					Chinook	NR	0
					Coho	NR	0
					Chum	NR	0
	Family C	Yes	Set Net	?	Sockeye	Below Average	0
	Comments: Interviewed: Thursday, 06-16-11 Caught 13 kings and 1 Shee fish. Hasn't been catching very much, below average.						
					Chinook	Below Average	13 week total
					Coho	Below Average	0
Chum					Below Average	0	

KNA Weekly Subsistence Fishing Report June 11-17, 2011 (Continued)

Village	Name	Fishing Y/N	Gear Type	Mesh Size	Species Type:	How does the run compare to recent years? *NR= no response	Average # fish caught daily:
Aniak	Family D	Yes	Drift Net	7"	Sockeye	Below Average	0
	Comments: Interviewed: Thursday, 06-16-11 Made 3 drifts on Monday caught 0, Tuesday made 2 drifts caught 0, Wednesday made 3 drifts caught 2 jack Kings. Adequate weather. Said the fishing is terrible. Been fishing since 1981 never had so many drifts and catch nothing. Hopefully closer will give upriver more fish.						
					Chinook	Below Average	2 week total
					Coho	Below Average	0
					Chum	Below Average	0
	Family E	Yes	Drift Net	7"	Sockeye	Below Average	0
	Comments: Interviewed: Thursday, 06-16-11 Drifted once yesterday caught 1 small king.						
					Chinook	Below Average	1 week total
					Coho	Below Average	0
					Chum	Below Average	0
	Family F	Yes	Drift Net	6"	Sockeye	Below Average	0
	Comments: Interviewed: Thursday, 06-16-11 Saturday: 1 king, 1 Dog. Fishing is below average.						
					Chinook	Below Average	1 week total
					Coho	Below Average	0
					Chum	Below Average	1 week total
Chuathbaluk	Family G	Yes	Drift Net	7 1/4"	Sockeye	NR	1 week total
	Comments: Interviewed: Thursday, 06-16-11 Fished on Monday and Wednesday caught a total of 3 small kings, 2 chums, and 1 red. Not sure if its average fishing. CHU usually starts getting fish about this time.						
					Chinook	NR	3 week total
					Coho	NR	0
					Chum	NR	2 week total
	Family H	Yes	Drift Net	?	Sockeye	Below Average	0
	Comments: Interviewed: Thursday, 06-16-11 Sunday: caught 6 small kings and 6 sheefish. Wednesday: No fish. Haven't fished since then. The run never really hit yet.						
					Chinook	Below Average	6 week total
					Coho	Below Average	0
					Chum	Below Average	0

KNA Weekly Subsistence Fishing Report June 11-17, 2011 (Continued)

Village	Name	Fishing Y/N	Gear Type	Mesh Size	Species Type:	How does the run compare to recent years? *NR= no response	Average # fish caught daily:					
Crooked Creek	Family I	Yes	Drift Net	7"	Sockeye	Average	0					
	Comments: Interviewed: Thursday, 06-16-11 Made one drift since last contacted. Good weather hopefully means good fishing. Thanks for closure downriver, upriver needs some fish too.				Chinook	Average	2 week total					
					Coho	Average	0					
					Chum	Average	2 week total					
					Family J	Yes	Drift Net	5 3/4"	Sockeye	NR	0	
					Comments: Interviewed: Thursday, 06-16-11 Fished on the 11th and on the 14th caught a total of 2 kings and 1 chum. Can't tell if it's normal or below fishing yet but seems like it. Said that they think commercial fishing cleaned out the river.				Chinook	NR	2 week total	
	Coho	NR	0									
	Chum	NR	1 week total									
	Sleetmute	Family K	Yes	Set Net					?	Sockeye	NR	0
		Comments: Interviewed: Thursday, 06-16-11 11th: caught 1 pike 12th: caught 1 lush and 2 pike. People have been catching kings up that way. Too early to tell if the fish run is normal or not.				Chinook	NR	0				
Coho						NR	0					
Chum						NR	0					
Stony River						Family L	Yes	Fish Wheel		Sockeye	Below Average	0
						Comments: Interviewed: Thursday, 06-16-11 Fish wheel has been going daily averaging 1-2 fish a day. 6 small white fish so far. No salmon yet, used to catch lots by now. Fishing is Below Average. Said the cup used to be full by now but the cup is 1/4 from empty. Not getting better.				Chinook	Below Average	0
	Coho	Below Average	0									
	Chum	Below Average	0									
	KNA Comments: The following participant families have not started fishing yet: Sleetmute (1 family contacted), Chuathbaluk (1 family contacted), Kalskag (1 family contacted).											
	The following participant families have not been able to contact: Aniak (1 family), McGrath (1 family).											

DISCUSSION OF RUN ASSESSMENT DATA:

Chuck Brazil reported lower than average water level, increased water clarity as the water drops, and normal water temperature.

Even with the 4-day break in fishing last week, the BTF CPUE for Chinook is similar to 2008, 2009, and 2010 (and 2010 had very poor escapement and total run for Chinook.) We expected BTF abundance to increase steeply during the closure, but it did not. Instead, the line representing abundance is running parallel below the “not meeting escapement” lower confidence interval. Therefore, since BTF is about 40% lower than it needs to be, we are confident that we are not going to meet Chinook escapement goals on several river systems.

Chuck Brazil reminded the group of the great relationship between BTF indices and the escapement projects which was established at previous meetings, and which makes BTF cumulative CPUE a good indicator of potential Chinook escapement at the spawning grounds. Stuart Curry asked about Chinook run timing. ADF&G responded that today’s date is historically the 40% to 45% passage point of the run; tomorrow is 50%.

Sockeye and chum abundance are good. We are about 15% into the sockeye run and the return is strong with good abundance. The chum CPUE jumped 64 points today and we are at 10% of the run.

WEIRS/SONAR/MARK-RECAPTURE/AERIAL SURVEYS:

Chris Shelden (ADF&G) reported that all the weir projects are on schedule, and two projects are counting fish. No Chinook have passed yet. Members requested having escapement goal graphs at the next meeting.

WEATHER FORECAST:

The forecast for the Kuskokwim Delta: partly cloudy with winds 10 to 20 mph (good drying weather). The marine forecast is N and NW winds 10 to 20 kts all week.

ADF&G RECOMMENDATION:

Option 1: To take no action or further closures. The only restrictions would be those already in place for the Kwethluk, Tuluksak, and Kisaralik Rivers and Kuskokuak Slough.

Option 2: To close District 1 subsistence fishing for 5 days from Thursday, June 23, until Monday June 27, to help meet escapement objectives. This closure would be during the 50% and 70% of the Chinook salmon run. 4-inch mesh nets not exceeding 60 feet in length would be allowed during this closure.

WORKING GROUP MOTIONS:

MOTION 1: Motion to suspend the rules in order to hear public input. **Motion passed** unanimously (10 Yeas, 0 Nays).

MOTION 2: Motion to support ADF&G Option 1, to take no action. **Motion failed** (3 Yeas, 5 Nays).

COMMENTS FOR MOTION 2:

Tim Andrew (AVCP) said that a gear study on the Yukon showed that 6-inch mesh harvested a lower number of Chinook than other species. He wasn't sure how applicable this study would be to the Kuskokwim, due to the different sizes of Chinook on each river, but he proposed allowing 6-inch mesh to harvest more abundant sockeye and chum. ADF&G responded that BTF shows that more Chinook are caught in smaller mesh (5 3/8-inch) than in larger mesh (8-inch). So allowing 6-inch mesh during the closure would not help reduce the number of Chinook caught. Escapement savings may not increase because goals are based on numbers of fish. Eva Patton (ONC) said that the inseason surveys also showed that people have better catch-ability with smaller mesh.

Dan Gillikin (USFWS) reminded everyone that the primary goal is meeting escapement goals. The graph on page 10 of the Information Packet shows that we have been paralleling the line of years when we did not meet escapements. We do not want to continue on this same trajectory.

George Alexie (Commercial Fisher) said that the river is deep, so he recommended that the lower W-1 area stay open for subsistence fishing because the fish can avoid the nets by going under them. ADF&G responded that we are trying to move fish past the entire lower river.

Mike Williams was concerned that fish camps that are in closed areas like Kuskokuak Slough have historically been able to fish at this time. Even though he is concerned about the resource, he supports Option 1.

James Charles supported Option 1 because someone he had talked to in Tuluksak was angry about the closures during good drying weather. Since the spring Anchorage meeting people expected restrictions but some still need to finish getting fish on their racks.

Stuart Currie commented that if there is no action, we will not meet escapement. He is a processor so of course he wants to go fishing, but we have to think about the future. He would support an action that allowed gear restrictions. Chair agreed with Stuart and stated that not meeting escapement would hurt for years to come. We have been looking at the data, and we need to take action.

Mike Williams stated that for thousands of years people only took what they needed. However, he is worried about "combat fishing" before the closure. The humane thing to do is to let people get their fish, but fish would not even have a chance of getting upriver.

Lamont Albertson commented that the folks upriver don't need to "wrap up" their fishing; they don't have any fish at all. He strongly disagrees with Option 1.

Bob Aloysius opposed the motion. The fishermen downriver were almost finished and the Bethel "combat fishing" was even more reason for closure. The population has gone way up and so has the harvest of Chinook salmon.

MOTION 3: Motion to support ADF&G Option 2, but amend it to have a 5-day closure in District 1 beginning at 12:01 am Wednesday, June 22, until 11:59 pm Sunday, June 26.
Motion failed unanimously (0 Yeas, 8 Nays).

MOTION 4: Motion to support ADF&G Option 2, a 5-Day subsistence fishing closure beginning at 12:01 am Thursday, June 23, and ending at 11:59 pm Monday, June 28. **Motion failed** (5 Yeas, 3 Nays).

The department decided to adopt Motion 4 (ADF&G Option 2.)

COMMENTS FOR MOTION 4:

ADF&G said that a closure during this time would protect Chinook while a large proportion of run was passing.

Chair was concerned that people would only have 48 hours to fish before the closure in good drying weather, instead of 72 hours.

Mike Williams does not think that District 1 “will scrape the river dry” before the closure and this motion will do more damage instead of giving salmon relief.

Fritz Charles suggested voting this motion down, and then making another that is only four days long. Many people were almost finished putting away fish in the good drying weather.

James Charles thought that we would not close the river again and he is not happy about this motion. Some people were commercial fishing in Quinhagak so they did not go subsistence fishing when they could have. ADF&G responded that they could not give an answer at the last meeting about future closures because they needed to look at the current data first.

OLD BUSINESS:

1.) In regard to fish being shipped out of Bethel and the possibility of implementing a reporting system, Ray Collins suggested bringing the issue to the August, 2011, Federal Subsistence Board meeting. Customary trade issues on the Yukon will be discussed, which could be an avenue for discussing the KRSMWG’s idea of reporting salmon shipped out of the area.

COMMENTS:

The Chair reiterated that we still have no data on how many fish are shipped to other places. She had talked to Patty Wheeler with OSM, and Patty thought that it could be possible to have people report it but that it is not required.

Mike Williams said that due to the ANILCA consultation policy with tribal governments there needs to be a hearing on this issue. He felt that the State of Alaska and USFWS do not recognize tribal governments enough and the agencies should consult directly with the tribes. He would love to see a full-fledged hearing on this issue to create regulations. There needs to be a process in the United States where people are consulted on these issues.

NEW BUSINESS: none

GENERAL COMMENTS FROM WORKING GROUP MEMBERS:

Mike Williams commented that ADF&G needs to be more culturally sensitive when dealing with issues. He did not think it was fair that the department decided to adopt Motion 4 even though the motion failed. He added that in the future there will be even more climate change and

devastation, and he appreciates the KRSMWG and believes that it will ensure salmon for the future. Earlier in the meeting, Mike mentioned his concern for the Kisaralik because people have fished there for the last 10,000 years, and now people use high-powered motors on it. He also said that the high seas fisheries that intercept Chinook should have to do some "damage repair."

Lamont Albertson commented that he has not heard much from the Sport Fish Division, especially since the Aniak River has much sport fishing pressure on it. John Chythlook responded that they would restrict sport fishing only if there were subsistence restrictions, and so far the subsistence restrictions have been for the lower river areas only.

Angela Morgan wished luck to people who have no fish and she thinks that these comments are important to future generations. Because of the population growth in the Kuskokwim area, she wondered if the department would consider increasing their escapement numbers in the future. She thanked ADF&G for its action today.

Fritz Charles talked about how the way of life has changed: "We have been doing this for thousands of years. Now we have bigger boats and longer nets, but before welfare came around 50 years ago, families used to put away 55-gallon drums full of Chinook. That was with the cotton mesh gear. Now everyone eats at the AC and village stores so they don't even need 100 fish, which would probably fit into four or five 5-gallon buckets." He felt that we are being punished for what the high-seas fisheries are catching. "Every fish counts."

Bob Aloysius wanted to applaud ADF&G and USFWS for the actions they took.

Ray Collins thought that the action was necessary. He reminded everyone that upriver, *no one* meets their needs. These are the people who have been making the biggest sacrifice. We have to get the fish upriver to meet escapement goals.

Chuck Brazil wanted to thank the KRSMWG for its discussion. He knows that it's important for people to meet their subsistence needs and closures are tough decisions for agency staff to make. However, the decisions are made in order to improve escapements.

Bev Hoffman knew it was a tough day for everyone up and down the river. However, she is "more sad for the king salmon that are having a hard time no matter what the reasons." If given the chance, she would have voted to close the fishery because we are not making escapement.

WORKING GROUP ATTENDANCE:

MEMBER SEAT:	NAME:
UPRIVER ELDER	<i>Vacant</i>
DOWNRIVER ELDER	James Charles
COMMERCIAL FISHER	George Alexie <i>*not present for all voting</i>
LOWER RIVER SUBSISTENCE	Mike Williams
MIDDLE RIVER SUBSTENCE	Angela Morgan
UPPER RIVER SUBSISTENCE	<i>Absent</i>
HEADWATERS SUBSISTENCE	<i>Absent</i>
PROCESSOR	Stuart Currie
MEMBER AT LARGE	Fritz Charles
SPORT FISHER	Lamont Albertson
WESTERN INTERIOR RAC	Ray Collins
Y-K DELTA RAC	Bob Aloysius
ADF&G	Charles Brazil
CHAIR	Beverly Hoffman

Other Participants:

ADF&G Comm. Fish : Travis Elison, Jan Conitz, Alice Bailey, Holly Carroll, John Linderman, Dan Bergstrom, Zach Liller, Amy Brodersen, Chris Shelden

Sport Fish : John Chythlook, Tom Taube

Subsistence Division: David Runfola, Andrew Brenner, Ben Balivet, Dora Johnson

USFWS: Dan Gillikin, Robert Sundown, Tom Doolittle, Aaron Moses, Steve Miller

OSM: Pippa Kenner, Don Rivard, Rod Campbell, Alex Nick

Tim Andrew, AVCP	Eva Patton, ONC
Jeff Sanders, Bethel	Alissa Joseph, ADF&G and ONC
Daniel Nelson, Napakiak	Maridon Boario, Senator Hoffman's office
Dave Cannon, Aniak	Doug Molyneaux
Tom Gould, Aniak NRCS	Casie Stockdale, AVCP
Shane Iverson, KYUK Bethel	Elsie Simeon, Aniak TC
La Donn Robbins, KNA	Nick Souza, CVS

GLOSSARY OF ACRONYMS:

Alaska Department of Fish and Game (**ADF&G**), Orutsararmiut Native Council (**ONC**), Kuskokwim Native Association (**KNA**), Association of Village Council Presidents (**AVCP**), U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (**USFWS**), Bethel Test Fishery project (**BTF**), Catch Per Unit Effort (**CPUE**), Coastal Village Seafoods (**CVS**), ADF&G Commercial Fisheries Division (**CF**), ADF&G Sport Fisheries Division (**SF**), Regional Advisory Council (**RAC**), Kuskokwim River Salmon Management Working Group (**KRSMWG** or **Working Group, WG**), Sustainable Escapement Goal (**SEG**), Biological Escapement Goal (**BEG**).

ONC Inseason Subsistence Surveys Current and Historic Catch Rate Information, 2011

Summary of Subsistence Salmon Information Collected by ONC Technicians.

Responses from the question: "Compared with this time in a "Normal" year, how were catch rates for salmon this week"? "ND" indicates that no data was collected because respondents felt it was too early in the run to assess this information.

Year	Week Ending	Number of Families			Chinook salmon			Chum salmon			Sockeye salmon		
		Inter-viewed	Fishing	Not Fishing	Very Good	Normal	Poor	Very Good	Normal	Poor	Very Good	Normal	Poor
2011	Jun 05	36	11	25	36%	36%	0	ND	ND	ND	9%	9%	0
	Jun 12	69	41	28	7%	34%	49%	10%	46%	10%	10%	46%	7%
	Jun 19	57	56	1	25%	38%	37%	14%	52%	20%	14%	57%	18%
2010	Jun 06	19	6	13	0	100%	0	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND
	Jun 13	39	28	11	4%	50%	46%	0	72%	28%	ND	ND	ND
	Jun 20	26	23	3	9%	65%	26%	0	100%	0	0	96%	4%
	Jun 27	37	37	0	3%	73%	24%	3%	92%	5%	5%	81%	14%
	Jul 04	38	36	2	8%	69%	22%	14%	78%	8%	3%	69%	28%
	Jul 11	20	11	9	0	91%	0%	27%	64%	0	18%	55%	18%
2009	Jun 07	20	6	14	0	67%	33%	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND
	Jun 14	43	38	5	29%	50%	21%	0	100%	0	0	100%	0
	Jun 21	44	44	0	41%	36%	23%	0	100%	0	0	86%	14%
	Jun 28	36	31	5	39%	55%	6%	3%	77%	9%	6%	71%	23%
	Jul 05	36	5	31	0	100%	0	0	100%	0	0	100%	0
	Jul 12	36	2	34	0	100%	0	0	100%	0	0	100%	0
2008	Jun 08	27	5	22	20%	60%	0	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND
	Jun 16	34	17	17	0	76%	24%	0	100%	0	0	100%	0
	Jun 22	32	27	5	56%	44%	0	0	74%	26%	81%	19%	0
	Jun 29	33	27	6	52%	48%	0	15%	85%	0	56%	44%	0
	Jul 08	35	15	20	20%	80%	0	0	100%	0	47%	53%	0
	Jul 13	32	3	29	0	100%	0	33%	67%	0	0	100%	0
2007	Jun 03	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND
	Jun 12	39	28	11	0	29%	71%	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND
	Jun 17	40	33	7	0	30%	70%	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND
	Jun 24	44	40	4	0	35%	65%	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND
	Jul 02	36	20	12	45%	45%	10%	80%	20%	0	0	40	60%
	Jul 08	33	10	23	60%	40%	0	80%	20%	0	30%	70%	0
	Jul 14	33	6	27	0	0	100	0	33%	67%	0	17%	83%
2006	Jun 03	22	0	22	0	0	0	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND
	Jun 10	32	19	13	32%	68%	0	0	0	0	ND	ND	ND
	Jun 17	36	30	6	60%	40%	0	60%	40%	0	53%	47%	0
	Jun 25	48	43	5	79%	21%	0	91%	9%	0	19%	56%	26%
	Jul 02	46	14	32	21%	79%	0	71%	29%	0	43%	57%	0
	Jul 09	38	8	30	0	100%	0	25%	75%	0	37%	63%	0
	Jul 17	26	5	21	0	100%	0	100	0	0	0	100%	0